

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Gerard VALAT et al.

Conf.

Application No. NEW NATIONAL PHASE

Group

Filed December 20, 2004

Examiner

ITEM OF FOOTWEAR HAVING A RIGID SHELL AND FLEXIBLE PAD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 20, 2004

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

An **Appendix** is attached following the signature page of this paper.